"That the Bill be passed"

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE ENERGY CONSERVATION BILL, 2001

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): Sir, I move:

> "That the Bill to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, you will recall that in this very House only a few weeks ago, there was a question which the hon. Members, my colleagues, in the House had raised about the need for resorting to demand side management to meet our growing energy requirement. It was a general prevailing mood of the House that while we need to enhance the capacity by creating more and more green-field power projects in the country, we should not overlook the importance of energy conservation because while we generate power, we need to invest more. We also use our natural resources to generate more energy. But at the same time, if energy generated is not properly utilised, then we are wasting a very precious resource and also we are not optimising the investment that has gone into that. With that view in mind, the Government has come out with a legislative proposal before the House which seeks to create a legal framework for conservation of energy. This new legislation seeks to provide a framework in which agriculture, manufacturing sector, household users as well as services would be required to use energy in the most efficient manner. The bulk users of energy are designated as designated users of the energy, then they will be obliged to resort to energy audit, and that energy audit will bring out various ways by which energy can be conserved. Those measures will have to be implemented by the respective designated users. Sir, this is intended to bring about a potential which is there in the energy conservation sector which is as high as, maybe, 40 per cent. That can really be unleashed through the legislative measures that are sought to be introduced before the Parliament. Sir, there have been a number of measures which we can take about this provision of law. First of all, agricultural pumps are very critical and use a lot of energy, but because in many States the use of electricity is not charged as well as the agricultural pumps are not

necessarily resorting to certain ISO standards. The energy conservation potential which is also there which is not harnessed. So, manufacturing sector like fertiliser, cement, steel, petrochemical, and all these energy gurgling industries also save energy substantially. Even in the households there is a growing tendency of using white goods, maybe, a washing machine or a refrigerator or a heater or a micro oven. All these white goods have a potential to save and conserve energy. Therefore, this Bill also seeks to introduce the first measure, an enabling provision whereby a customer when he is buying a particular white good, is making an informed choice to find out whether that particular equipment that he is buying is conforming to the various requirements of energy conservation legislation as well as whether it is going to be an energy efficient machine. Sir, even on households, commercial buildings, they are saying that if energy conservation measures are introduced, there is a potential to save energy, as much energy, as high as 20 to 235 per cent. So, this Bill was introduced, sometime back, in the Lok Sabha. Then, it was referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy. The Standing Committee on Energy made several recommendations, and I am very happy to inform the House that I have accepted all the recommendations of the Standing Committee, without any exception. In fact, I have incorporated some of those recommendations as official amendments. Therefore, it is going to take some time before the formal passage of the Bill takes place because we are gong to discuss so many official amendments that have been moved. One of the apprehensions that could be expressed by the hon. Members is that 'You are introducing another legislation; and, conform to that legislation, we need an army of officers and bureaucracy. Will it not increase the burden in relation to compliance -- maybe, filing of returns -- and would it also not lead to 'Inspector raj.' Therefore, I have already decided that, while framing the rules, we will introduce the concept of a self-regulatory organisation to actually make it happen even before the Bill is passed. I had consulted all the trade unions. I had consulted the manufacturing organisations. I am in the process of consulting the consumer organisations next week. I am going to meet all the farmers associations in the week following and then we will be actually coming out with a mechanism which is like a self-regulatory apparatus so that the conforming to this Bill would not require any necessary inspection by the inspectors and it will not increase the burden on of compliance. Therefore, this Bill is before the House. Lok Sabha has passed this Bill. As I already said, in this Bill, which has been passed by the Lok Sabha, we have

incorporated all the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Energy. Therefore, I am sure, this august House will also approve this Bill unanimously. Thank you.

The question was proposed

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): What I propose is that since we have to start the Short Duration Discussion at 4 o' clock and since we have only three more minutes left, let us continue this discussion on the Energy Conservation Bill, 2001, later on. Now, we will start the debate on the Short Duration Discussion.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN (Nominated): Sir, before that, may I crave your indulgence on a point for one minute? It is with regard to the Bills. I take this occasion to say that the Bill indicates 'as passed by Lok Sabha.' Now, there are several Bills that we have had in this Session, and we will have more. I would respectfully suggest to all the hon. Ministers and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that it would be extremely convenient to have the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill when it comes up before the Rajya Sabha for discussion so that we may be in a better position to appreciate and debate the various points in the Bills that are introduced here for being passed. If that could be possible, instead of having Bills 'as passed by Lok Sabha', we could have Bills with the Statement of Objects and Reasons, or we could have the Bill as it is introduced in the Lok Sabha, along with the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It would only mean adding of a few more words because that would give us the thrust and the purpose of each Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): But Mr. Nariman .....*(Interruptions)*.....I will just explain the position. When a Bill is introduced in the Lok Sabha, it is simultaneously circulated to all the Members of the Rajya Sabha in the same form in which it was introduced in the Lok Sabha. It also includes the Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill. The demand that you are making is already a part of parliamentary practice.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN: I see.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Just one minute. Mr. Nariman, will you please yield for a minute? I can clarify the position. Whenever a Bill is introduced in either House of Parliament, the same copy is being circulated to the Members of both the Houses of Parliament, and

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the same thing is also published in Part-II of the Bulletins of the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha so that the Members can consult the Bulletins and find out on which date which Bill was introduced and they can get their own copy.

SHRI FALI S. NARIMAN: Thank you. I am sorry that I have taken the time of the House...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): No, no. It is okay.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Not at all. It is a good and interesting point that you have raised.

I hope the Home Minister is coming.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI NILOTPAL BASU): I am given to understand that he is attending the meeting of the Consultative Committee on Home Affairs. He will be coming in a couple of minutes.

SHORT DURLATION DISCUSSION

SECURITY SCENARIO IN THE LIGHT OF TERRORIST AND OTHER INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL SECURITY THREATS AND THE REMEDIAL MEASURES TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT IN THIS REGARD

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to raise a discussion, under rule 176, on the security scenario, in the light of the terrorist and other internal and external security threats, and the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard. Sir, when we are having this discussion, we have two documents before us -- one which was placed on the Table of the House on 25th July the 75th Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, which dealt with the terrorism and other activities in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. I am quoting from page one of the report. This is the evidence which the Chief Secretary gave us, and it is part of the Report. It had been placed on the Table of the House. That is why I can utilise it; otherwise I could not have utilized it. "Jammu & Kashmir was not faced with an insurgency or indigenous militancy, but a clandestine war that could be gauged from the fact that since 1990 to May 2000 over 33,763 weapons of various calibres, three million rounds of